

WEATHER FORECAST:
Much colder tonight.
(Full Report on Page Two.)

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PRICE ONE CENT.

'DRYS' GATHER TO FIGHT MOVE FOR VOTE HERE ON PROHIBITION

President Andrew Wilson, of the Anti-Saloon League, Presides Over Meeting at Poli's This Afternoon.

Hundreds of Men and Women Indorse Sheppard Bill; Many Notables Expected to Talk Against Liquor.

President Andrew Wilson, of the District Anti-Saloon League, is presiding this afternoon over a mass meeting called by the advocates of the Sheppard District prohibition bill to launch their campaign against the granting of a referendum on the subject.

The meeting, which was staged at Poli's Theater to accommodate the large crowd expected to attend, attracted hundreds of men and women to the playhouse long before the speakers arrived. Those who arranged the meeting expected an audience which would tax the capacity of the theater because of the great interest in the proposed "dry" legislation for the District.

TO GO ON RECORD.

Bishop Earl Cranston was scheduled to pronounce the invocation, while Judge Samuel D. Winkley, formerly of the supreme court of Alabama, was expected to discuss the several prohibition bills in his native State. Among others included in the list of speakers are Congressman John C. Cooper of Ohio, the Rev. Clarence Vincent, president of the Pastors' Federation; the Rev. D. L. Binkmore, the Rev. James Shera Montgomery, pastor of Metropolitan Methodist Church; Attorney W. H. Jackson, of the Washington Bar Association; Dr. William C. Woodward, Health Officer of the District; Mrs. Emma Sanford Shelton, president of the District W. C. T. U.; the Rev. E. C. Dinwiddie, national legislative superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League; and the Rev. Forrest J. Prentiss, chaplain of the Senate.

The objects of the meeting were to be outlined by President Cranston, while each speaker had a specific phase of prohibition allowed to him or her for discussion. The principal object of the meeting, as outlined by Cranston, was to go on record.

EXPECT D. C. TO GAIN 2,650 BY JULY FIRST

Census Authorities Think Population Will Be 363,980 By That Time.

Washington is expected to gain 2,650 in population in the next six months by the Census Bureau which today estimated the city's population on July 1 would be 363,980. To fulfill the predictions of the Census Bureau the city must increase its population by 42 persons a month, or fifteen each day.

The population of Washington on January 1 is estimated at 361,330 by the Census Bureau. The police census taken during the month of October and made public a short time ago, showed the population to be 357,449 by actual count. The estimated census of last July was 358,878. The Census Bureau today estimated that the population of the United States on July 1 would be 102,917,312, as compared with the estimate of 101,298,312 on January 1, and 100,299,312 on July 1 of last year.

Making Twenty 16-Inch Guns for Army and Navy

ALBANY, Feb. 12.—An increased force of mechanics is working night and day at the Watervliet arsenal to fill urgent orders for heavy guns for the army and navy.

FIRE DAMAGES WAREHOUSE OF FURNITURE CO.

Engines Delayed in Responding to Alarm at Seventh and D Streets Northwest.

LOSS IS UNESTIMATED

Frame Building in Which Carpets and Linoleum Were Stored Discovered Abjaze.

Fire in the second and third floors of the frame buildings at 629 and 641 D street northwest at 12:30 today gained much headway before the arrival of the fire apparatus, because of the snowy streets, but the streams of four companies quickly applied soon had the flames under control.

The rooms were used by the Hub Furniture Company, for storing carpets, linoleums, and other floor coverings.

Police were unable to make an estimate of the loss.

The general merchandising stocks of Rosenthal & Levy and Joseph Goldberg, in the first floors of the buildings, also suffered damage by water, but the flames were confined to the second story of the three-story structures.

The fire started from an unknown cause and had gained considerable headway before streams could be applied. The flames were fought by Companies Nos. 2, 6, 11 and 16, in charge of Acting Department Chief Carleton, and Trucks Nos. 1 and 2.

The automobile hook and ladder, which responded to the alarm, had considerable difficulty in making time to the blaze because of the slippery streets. The long apparatus had to be taken around corners at a snail's pace, and it was only by the most careful driving that the operator succeeded in preventing the machine from skidding.

The water tower, which was not needed, had to be driven as a snail, as the horses slipped at almost every step.

The fire occurred just at the hour many churches were letting out, and a large crowd, attracted by the smoke, which could be seen from a distance of several blocks, witnessed the firemen work.

GROUND HOG THEORY SHATTERED BY SNOW

Rapid Temperature Drop Brings Cloak of White to Capital. Cold Tonight.

Rapidly lowering temperature, accompanied by snow, which began at 11 o'clock today, gave a knock-out blow to groundhog theories in the Capital.

The Census Bureau today estimated that the population of the United States on July 1 would be 102,917,312, as compared with the estimate of 101,298,312 on January 1, and 100,299,312 on July 1 of last year.

The bulletin issued today, says the Census Bureau, having had no supervision over State or police census taking, has made no use of figures obtained through those sources, but based its estimates on figures as shown by the censuses of 1900 and 1910. Proceeding on this theory, the bureau added 6,501 to the census figures of last July to arrive at its estimate for next July.

President Will Return To Capital This Evening

NEWPORT NEWS, Feb. 12.—Late this afternoon the Mayflower will start on the return trip to the President back to Washington. Dr. Dreyer weathered the storm, and the President will be back in the city this evening.

Tom Watson Dares U. S. To Try Him Out of State

Macon, Ga., Feb. 12.—Tom Watson in a speech at Thomson today defied the National Government to take him out of the State for trial. He assailed President Wilson's Administration. Watson urged a large crowd at the meeting to drill and be prepared to shed their blood.

Diamond Drill Bores Rocks For Gold Within Sight of the Nation's Capitol



Below—Diamond drill which grinds away 1,000 feet beneath the surface.

Native of Turkey, After Seeking Yellow Metal in All Corners of Earth, Installs Modern Machinery in New Effort to Obtain Treasures of Old Workings in Montgomery County, Md.

Diamond drills are boring their blind ways, hundreds of feet below the ground, in quest of hidden ledges of gold-bearing quartz, within twenty miles of Washington. Night and day they are grinding through strata of living rock—fifteen hard-won feet every twenty-four hours.

Around the shanties in which the diamond drills sing their hard-rock song, stretches a tract upon which the District of Columbia might be comfortably settled without spilling over the edges.

More than half a million dollars already has been spread over the tract of land. Perhaps before the song of the diamond drill is silenced this initial outlay will be increased four-fold.

Baltimore Ready for Billy Sunday Revival; Enthusiasm Grips City

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

Baltimore's Billy Sunday campaign is on. Oh, no, Sunday and his party have not arrived in the Maryland metropolis. They will not get there until the week of February 20.

Then Sunday's advance man is in. "Then Sunday's advance man is in," wrote again. He has been there, and gone off to Kansas City, where Sunday has a campaign in April.

The Rev. Mr. Sunday is the Lindley M. Garrison of revival preparedness. "What I preparations include."

The preparations for the Baltimore campaign, to date, include these items: A month of semi-weekly home prayer meetings. For the last two weeks there have been from 1,500 to 1,700 of these each Tuesday and Friday night.

The last nail driven in the great tabernacle out on Greenmount avenue, the largest Sunday has yet had, seating 11,000 persons.

A two weeks' daily training course for hundreds of the personal workers who will assist in rounding up reluctant "trail hitters" at the Sunday meetings. Organization of a choir of 1,500 voices, at least 2,000 of whom will be present at every tabernacle meeting.

Signing up of more than 500 ushers and assigners each to his place and instructing him in his duties.

Why we could begin the meetings tomorrow," remarked a campaign committee man at the Sunday headquarters in the Bouthouse building.

The meetings, mind you, for the campaign already has begun, as stated. In proof of that fact there already are recorded 40 converts, signed up mostly during the last week.

Improved Service to Asheville. Land of the Sky. Present through drawing room sleeping cars on and after March 1st will also contain compartments, leaving Washington daily, 1 p. m. Southern Railway, 705 15th St. N. W. Adv.

BULGARIA ASKS FOR SEPARATE PEACE, REPORT FROM ATHENS

Correspondent Confirms Story That Germany's Balkan Ally Has Made Overtures to Entente Powers.

Sofia's Defection Would Mark First Break Among Central Powers—The Main Burden Borne by Ferdinand's Men.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from its Athens correspondent today says the report that Bulgaria has made overtures to the entente allies for a separate peace is confirmed in entente circles in Greece.

Bulgaria, with the possible exception of Montenegro, is the first of the nations engaged in the great world war to ask for peace. Montenegro, Serbia and Belgium have been overrun by hostile troops, but what is left of their armies are still in the field with their allies.

The defection of Bulgaria would mark, too, the first sign of a break among the Central powers. It is reported to have been caused by events in the Balkan campaign, where the Austrian and German commanders are said to have sought to shift the main burden of the campaign to Bulgaria.

BULGAR LOSSES HEAVY.

The Bulgarian losses in the fierce fighting in the last Balkan campaign, particularly in their encounters with the French and British troops, have been enormous.

Recent insistent reports that Roumania is about to enter the war is believed here to have had their effect upon Bulgaria.

Military experts point out that the entrance of Roumania into the war would impose still heavier burdens upon Roumania, who would be called upon to bear the brunt of Roumania's attack.

Russ Press Foe Hard In East as French Attempt To Regain Lost Ground

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The Russians are continuing unabated their terrific offensive against the German and Austrian armies in the east, and the French are delivering smashing blows in the Champagne district, having captured 200 yards of enemy trenches in one fierce drive.

The increasing Russian attacks have prevented further withdrawals by the Austro-Germans from Poland and Galicia, and the anxieties of the German offensive on the Western front is believed to have been reached, with the enemy struggling desperately to retain the advantage.

Military critics expect important military developments to take place during the coming week. What these may be they do not predict, but they believe the German offensive force in France and Flanders has been spent, and the Austrian and Hungarian troops are demoralized and weakening before the Russian onslaughts.

Austro-Germans on Defensive.

The great offensive movement of the Russians is being developed throughout the entire eastern arena. On the Sereth, Pruth, and Danube rivers the Austro-Germans are reported to be on the defensive. Serious breaches have been made by the Muscovites in the front of the Austrian forces, and it is declared in Petrograd that Chernovits, the capital of Bukovina, is in imminent danger.

One of the most important lines of communication between the armies of General Planer and Bothmer has been interrupted by the crossing of the Danube at Uscleske by the Russians, who have advanced again to the neighborhood of Zala Vasosky, where the Hungarian troops are demoralized and have been detached from a position four miles to the rear.

The Russians have captured more ground north of Tarnopol, where their artillery and their use of the bayonet are said to have demoralized the enemy.

Petrograd military experts assert that while the successes of the Russians so far in their present offensive do not offer important strategic advantage, yet they have stopped the withdrawal of enemy forces, the total number of those having been detached from the eastern arena for other fronts since the commencement of the German offensive in the west (Feb. 6) has been estimated at 200,000.

The Germans have been hampered

An old "Gold Panner" sampling the surface vein.

Native of Turkey, After Seeking Yellow Metal in All Corners of Earth, Installs Modern Machinery in New Effort to Obtain Treasures of Old Workings in Montgomery County, Md.

Diamond drills are boring their blind ways, hundreds of feet below the ground, in quest of hidden ledges of gold-bearing quartz, within twenty miles of Washington. Night and day they are grinding through strata of living rock—fifteen hard-won feet every twenty-four hours.

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TRENCHES THREE MILES LONG.

Trenches for the surface exploration of the land zigzag across the meadows and disappear in a belt of woodland. If these trenches were laid end to end they would be three miles long.

About the diamond drills and the trenches more than 100 trained men, under the command of a veteran of many mining prospects in most of the strange corners and waste places of the world, are at work endeavoring to determine whether by modern scientific methods the old "gold fields" of Montgomery county, Md., can be made to pay.

Already, although the work which is going on today is but three months old, the project has assumed significant proportions, and the labor may continue for many months on end before the question propounded by the mining geologist and engineer in charge is answered to his satisfaction.

"Free" gold and small nuggets have already rewarded the workers on the tract, which has been christened "The Great Falls Mine of Maryland." But men versed in getting the earth of her treasures declare that free gold appears in uncertain quantities, and that nuggets may be found in scattered and easily exhausted pockets.

Therefore, until the presence or absence of gold-bearing ledges is definitely proven, the preliminary exploration will go on.

The survey of the tract now in progress is being performed without publicity. Officials of the mine neither invite nor encourage visitors to the "works."

The tract is placarded with "No trespass" signs, and orders have been given that no outsiders be permitted on the works, under pain of dismissal for whichever assistant engineer permits such a transgression.

Inquiries as to the results which are being obtained are invariably met with the statement:

"We do not know as yet whether we have a gold mine or not. There is some gold here—yes; but it is too soon to say whether it is in paying quantities. Perhaps a year, or two years hence, we will know. And then, if we do have a mine, the real work will begin."

On Old Ford Farm.

Three months ago, the old Ford Farm, which lies two or three miles from the Potomac river, off Conduit road, below Great Falls, which has now become the home tract of the Great Falls of Maryland mine, showed none of its present day activity.

The big red brick house, of an architecture two generations ago, stood peacefully upon its hill. Behind it, the outbuildings which mark so many Virginia farms, had been erected. Off to the right, on the side of a sloping meadow, stood a clump of trees which still shelter a graveyard of the old regime. Near the now unmarked graves stood

FOUR CONVICTS' PLOT TO BLOW UP JOLIET

Prison Authorities Learn of Plan Few Hours Before Explosion Was Planned.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—A plot to blow up the State penitentiary at Joliet was disclosed to Warden Michael Zimmer last night by an "honor" convict who a few hours before the prisoners planned to set off the explosion.

Dynamite was hidden under the west gate to the penitentiary and a large quantity of nitro-cellulose was secreted in the shoe shop.

A band of desperate prisoners intended to saw their way out of their cells at midnight, blow up the prison with the dynamite, and wreck the wall with the dynamite, effecting a delivery of all prisoners.

The explosive was smuggled into the jail by paroled convicts.

Every Day—the Right Way. Augusta Special. In Washington 7 p. m. for Columbia, Alton, Augusta, South-ern Railway. 705 15th St. N. W. Adv.

CANADA ANGERED BY "SLACKERS'" EXODUS

Officials Planning Every Obstacle, Short of Conscription, to Keep Fighting Men.

TORONTO, Feb. 12.—So constant is the stream of "blackies" across the border that indignation and harassed officials are planning every obstacle, short of conscription, to prevent their departure from the country.

The citizens' recruiting league of military district No. 2, including Toronto and Hamilton, which has enlisted about 25 per cent of all the forces sent to the front by Canada, has adopted a resolution calling upon the government to make it impossible for anybody of military age to leave the country without a passport furnished by a competent authority.

The author of this resolution claims the potential soldier can be stamped into the service by constant headline of recruiting agents who stop pedestrians on the street and ask embarrassing questions concerning their absence from the front.

Mardi C. New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola, March 2. Low round trip fares. Through sleeping cars. Southern Railway. 705 15th St. N. W. Adv.